altering a first property of the environment such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere; and

altering a second property of the environment such that the vapor condenses on the surface of the article.

25. (Amended) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

placing a dielectric article in a liquid of a controlled environment;

condensing vapor from the atmosphere of the controlled environment onto the dielectric article to form a condensate thereon;

decreasing the pressure on the atmosphere of the controlled environment such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere; and then

drying the article.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the first property comprises volume and the second property comprises volume.

33.(Amended) A method of making an electret comprising:

altering at least one property of a controlled environment so as to cause the vapor of the atmosphere of the controlled environment to condense on a dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than 10^{14} ohms-cm, said dielectric article being disposed in said controlled environment; and

drying the article to remove the condensate,

wherein the electret exhibits a persistent electric charge.

Please add the following claims.

34.(New) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:

altering the volume of a controlled environment that comprises atmosphere and liquid such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere to form vapor;

altering the volume of the environment such that the vapor condenses on the surface of a dielectric article; and then

drying the article.

35.(New) A method of making an electret comprising:

altering at least one property of a controlled environment so as to cause the vapor of the atmosphere of the controlled environment to condense on a dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than 10^{14} ohms-cm, said property being selected from the group consisting of volume, pressure or temperature of the controlled environment; and

drying the article.

36.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein the electret exhibits a persistent electric charge.

37.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein the dielectric article comprises a nonconductive polymeric material.

38.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein the condensate that forms when the vapor condenses on the dielectric article includes a polar liquid.

39.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein the controlled environment further comprises a liquid, and the method further comprises:

placing the article in the liquid; and

decreasing the pressure on the atmosphere such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere.

40.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein altering the property comprises increasing the pressure on the atmosphere such that the vapor condenses on the article.

41.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein said altering comprises an adiabatic expansion.

42.(New) The method of claim 25, wherein the controlled environment comprises a vacuum chamber.

43.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein the polar liquid is an aqueous liquid.

44.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein the condensate consists essentially of water.

45.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein the condensate is selected form the group consisting of acetone, methanol, ethanol, liquid carbon dioxide, butanol, or a combination thereof.

46.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein the condensate comprises a fluorocarbon.

47.(New) The method of claim 38, wherein the article is nonwoven fibrous web.

48.(New) The method of claim 47, wherein the nonwoven fibrous web comprises microfibers.

49.(New) The method of claim 48, wherein the microfibers are melt blown.

50.(New) The method of claim 49, wherein the melt blown microfibers comprise polypropylene, poly-(4-methyl-1-pentene), or a combination thereof.